SKETCHES FROM OUTSIDE THE MARGINS 2016 - 2018

Stories from Seattle/King County Clinic

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Excerpts from Kelly Froh's pieces

Maggie by David Lasky, 2017

ABOUT THE PROJECT

For four days every fall during the past five years, Seattle/King County Clinic opened its doors at Seattle Center to offer free dental, medical and vision care. No insurance was needed, no documentation required, and all were welcomed. And people came by the thousands, waiting in line for hours, even overnight, for the range of services offered at this volunteer-run healthcare event.

Who were these patients, and what were their reasons for waiting in line for healthcare in an arena? Community stakeholders, healthcare agencies and policy makers wanted to find out what brought them here and what experiences they have had with healthcare, both at the Clinic and every day. So, for three years Clinic organizers invited artists who work in a storytelling medium to roam through the giant venue, talk to patients and volunteers, and document the stories that were generously shared. The experiences they heard resonated with the artists, many who have also struggled to pay for healthcare, or delayed treatment because they could not afford it, or know people undergoing the same difficulties with healthcare access.

Through these stories, we aim to draw attention to the diversity of circumstances that brought people to Seattle/King County Clinic and the humanity of a community that came together to help those in need. We hope these stories will stimulate conversations about the struggles many people face with healthcare and the need for solutions so that everyone can have the opportunity to thrive.

Meredith Li-Vollmer, Editor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Seattle Center, Seattle Center Foundation, and Public Health—Seattle & King County for supporting this project, and to all the patients and volunteers who shared their stories.

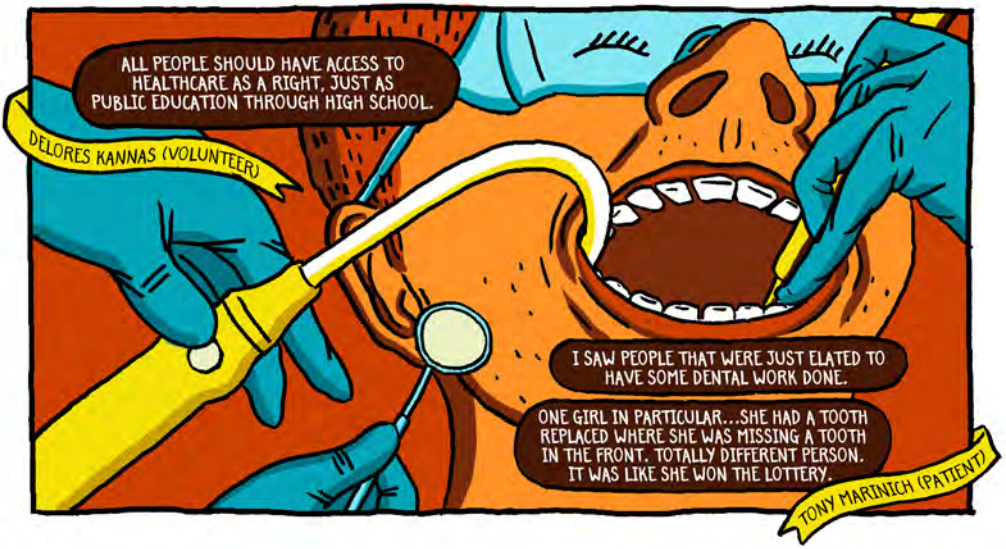
Cover artwork by Tatiana Gill. Back cover artwork by Amy Camber.

Graphic layout by Sarah Sherman.

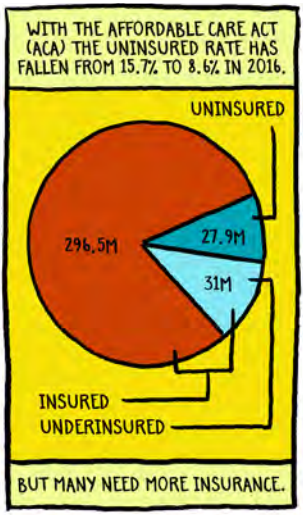
More on Seattle/King County Clinic at seattlecenter.org/skcclinic

THIS CLINIC TAKES EVERYONE

The Origins of Seattle/King County Clinic


ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AS A RIGHT, JUST AS PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.
DELORES KANNAS (VOLUNTEER)
I SAW PEOPLE THAT WERE JUST ELATED TO HAVE SOME DENTAL WORK DONE.
ONE GIRL IN PARTICULAR...SHE HAD A TOOTH REPLACED WHERE SHE WAS MISSING A TOOTH IN THE FRONT. TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON. IT WAS LIKE SHE WON THE LOTTERY.
TONY MARTINICH (PATIENT)

THE SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC (SKCC) IS A FREE POP-UP CLINIC.
IN 2016 IT OFFERED DENTAL, VISION, AND MEDICAL CARE TO 4,492 PEOPLE OVER FOUR DAYS AT KEY ARENA.


WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) THE UNINSURED RATE HAS FALLEN FROM 15.7% TO 8.6% IN 2016.
UNINSURED
296.5M
27.9M
31M
INSURED
UNDERINSURED
BUT MANY NEED MORE INSURANCE.

POP-UPS GIVE TEMPORARY RELIEF TO RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES OPERATING IN A FRACTURED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

IT'S A GRASSROOTS EFFORT PUT ON WITHOUT FEDERAL FUNDING BY 115 ORGANIZATIONS AND STAFFED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY THEIR 3,947 VOLUNTEERS.

I LOOK AT HEALTH CARE ACCESS AS A QUILT AND IT'S JUST ONE MORE PATCH.
MEDICARE
MEDICAID
SKCC
VA
CHRISTINE LINDQUIST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON HEALTHCARE ACCESS ALLIANCE

ADULT DENTAL NOW IS COVERED BY MEDICAID [IN WASHINGTON].
THIS IS RARE.
BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE YOU THE CARE IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
DENTIST
RESULTS

CONNIE WAGNER
RETIREE FROM PUYALLUP
LIKES HER PRIVATE INSURANCE, BUT HAS NO DENTAL PLAN.
SHE HASN'T SEEN A DENTIST IN SEVEN YEARS.
A FREE CLINIC IN TACOMA COULDN'T DO THE PROCEDURE AND TOLD HER TO COME HERE.
THERE ISN'T [ANOTHER] OPTION. I LIVE ON SUCH A SPARSE AMOUNT OF MONEY EVERY MONTH THAT THERE'S NO MONEY FOR ANYTHING.
WASHINGTON WAS ONE OF 32 STATES* THAT EXPANDED MEDICAID. POP-UPS ARE VITAL IN THE STATES THAT DIDN'T.
sangria
salsa bar
PARADOXICALLY MOST INSURANCE PLANS COVER EYE EXAMS, BUT NOT GLASSES, WHICH YOU CAN GET HERE.
*INCLUDING DC
SO WE'VE GOT ALL THESE POCKETS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE LEFT OUT.
PEOPLE WHO ARE LEFT OUT BECAUSE OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. PEOPLE...WHO ARE LIVING IN POVERTY BUT ARE JUST MAKING A DOLLAR OR TWO TOO MUCH.
BREAKDOWN OF SKCC PATIENTS
NO INSURANCE 47%
MEDICAID 20%
PRIVATE INSURANCE 4%
MEDICARE 12%
NO ANSWER 9%
OTHER 2%
THIS CLINIC TAKES EVERYONE.
IT'S A FEDERAL [POVERTY] RATE SO IT'S THE SAME IF YOU'RE LIVING IN RURAL GEORGIA OR URBAN WASHINGTON.
FAMILY OF 4
POVERTY LEVEL $24,250
MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY $33,465
COST OF LIVING COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE
LONG COUNTY, GA -17%
KING COUNTY, WA +161%
A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, WHO'S UNEMPLOYED AFTER A RECENT BIRTH AND BETWEEN INSURANCE, NEEDS DENTAL WORK.
X-RAY
MY HUSBAND STAYED HOME TO TAKE CARE OF [THE BABY].
CHILD CARE
WAGES
DENTAL SERVICES
SERVICES WORTH $500 OUTWEIGHED THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND'S WAGES.
HERE PEOPLE CAN GET HELP WITH THE HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE APPLICATION.
BACK HOME [IN KENYA] IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING YOU GO TO YOUR NEIGHBOR'S DOOR AND KNOCK AND TELL THEM, "CAN YOU HELP ME?"
BUT HERE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOUR NEIGHBOR IS.

Continued....

THIS COMMUNITY DID OWN AND OPERATE THIS CLINIC FROM THE GET GO.
PRINCIPAL
$x^2+y^2=z$
JULIA COLSON
PROJECT DIRECTOR AT SEATTLE CENTER
HAS BEEN A DANCER, MATHEMATICIAN AND PRINCIPAL.
SHE AND COLLEAGUE JOHN MERNER PITCHED THE IDEA FOR THE CLINIC VISITED SITES, AND WORKED WITH ORGANIZATIONS TO LAUNCH SKCC.
SEATTLE OWNS THE CENTER, WHICH IS AN EMERGENCY SITE, SO THEY ALREADY HAD PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
BEER
BROS BAGEL
EMERGENCY BED
WE'VE BECOME AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF DATA.
BELLEVUE
SEATTLE
ISSAQUAH
90
BURIEN (TONY)
TACOMA
PUYALLUP (CONNIE)
ENUMCLAW (TED)
BUT THIS ISN'T MARKETABLE INFO.
IT'S NOT ABOUT BUSINESS BUILDING. THIS IS ABOUT PHILANTHROPIC HUMANITARIAN WORK. PERIOD.
THAT WAS OUR GOAL. SERVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED AND THEN PROMPT THAT DISCUSSION AMONG LEGISLATORS, POLICY MAKERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE THINGS GOING FORWARD.
I WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEE THE SYSTEM FIXED SO THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO A CLINIC LIKE THIS.
*PATIENTS CAME FROM 262 ZIPCODES
LAMONT BERRYSMITH IS HERE WITH HIS MOM AND A SISTER.
HE'S BEEN EXPERIENCING HOUSELESSNESS ON AND OFF FOR 30 YEARS.
I WATCHED SO MANY PEOPLE DIE ON THESE STREETS IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.
HE'S ON DISABILITY BECAUSE HE HAS BIPOLAR DISORDER, SCHIZOPHRENIA, AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES THAT KEEP HIM FROM RETAINING A JOB.

WASHINGTONIANS REPORT LIVING WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS MORE OFTEN THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, YET WASHINGTON IS RANKED 50TH FOR ADULT MENTAL HEALTHCARE.*
* OF THE 51 STATES INCLUDING D.C.
FOR FAMILIES WITH MANY MEDICAL NEEDS, THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY.
MEDICAL START
DEN STA
IT'S SO MUCH BETTER HERE BECAUSE THEY HAVE EVERYTHING ALL IN ONE BUILDING...
THERE'S FREE SHOES AND SOCIAL WORKERS PLUS HELP SIGNING UP FOR INSURANCE AND HOUSING.
I GOT AN APPOINTMENT TO GET SOME HOUSING ON THE 3RD.
[A PATIENT] SAID THAT SHE FELT LIKE SHE WASN'T ALONE...
DEEANN M.M. MIKULA
VOLUNTEER NURSE
THAT EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE AS A PATIENT WAS BEING TOLD, "YOU ARE NOT ALONE, WE CARE ABOUT YOU."
AT THE END OF THE DAY, I'VE HELPED, EDUCATED AND COMFORTED FELLOW HUMANS, THERE IS NOTHING BETTER. I LOVE THE SKC CLINIC BECAUSE IT IS DOING THESE THINGS ON SUCH A PURE LEVEL, WITH SUCH IMMEDIACY.
THE AVERAGE VOLUNTEER SHIFT IS 10 HOURS, BUT ORGANIZERS WORK 15+ FOR DAYS ON END.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE HOME ABOUT 5 O' CLOCK [AM] TO GET HERE FROM ENUMCLAW.
TED WALKER
DENTAL TECHNICIAN
MANAGES THE LAB
THE EQUIPMENT IS NOT WHAT WE USUALLY USE...THIS EQUIPMENT OVER HERE IS FOR PUMPING UP CAR TIRES, BUT WE ADOPT IT.
THE CLINIC'S WAITING AREA OPENS AT 12 AM AND TICKETS ARE HANDED OUT AT 5 AM.
JEEZ-IT'S LIKE 45°
A PLACEHOLDER SYSTEM ALLOWS PATIENTS TO LEAVE AND COME BACK, BUT MANY STAY, AFRAID TO LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY.
SOME HAVE SAID IT'S INHUMANE.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE NEW IPHONE COMES OUT?
THEY MAKE THAT DETERMINATION BECAUSE OF THE VALUE THAT IT HAS IN THEIR LIFE.
THANKS!

Continued....

Can Free Pop-up Clinics Save American Healthcare? By Eroyn Franklin, 2016

Key Arena
IT'S 2017 AND ANOTHER YEAR AT THE KING COUNTY FREE CLINIC.
MARIAH CAREY PLAYED HERE RECENTLY. NOW, PEOPLE WAIT
Key Arena
IN LONG LINES OVERNIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE. TRUMP IS PRESIDENT.
What do you think of healthcare in America?
TAGHRID
It's good!
Really, it's amazing. We don't have like this in Yemen.
VALENTINA
Very Bad.
Medicare doesn't cover glasses. I got mine here last year.
TUAN
This free clinic is good.
Low income people can't afford. Costs are going up.
ETR 2017

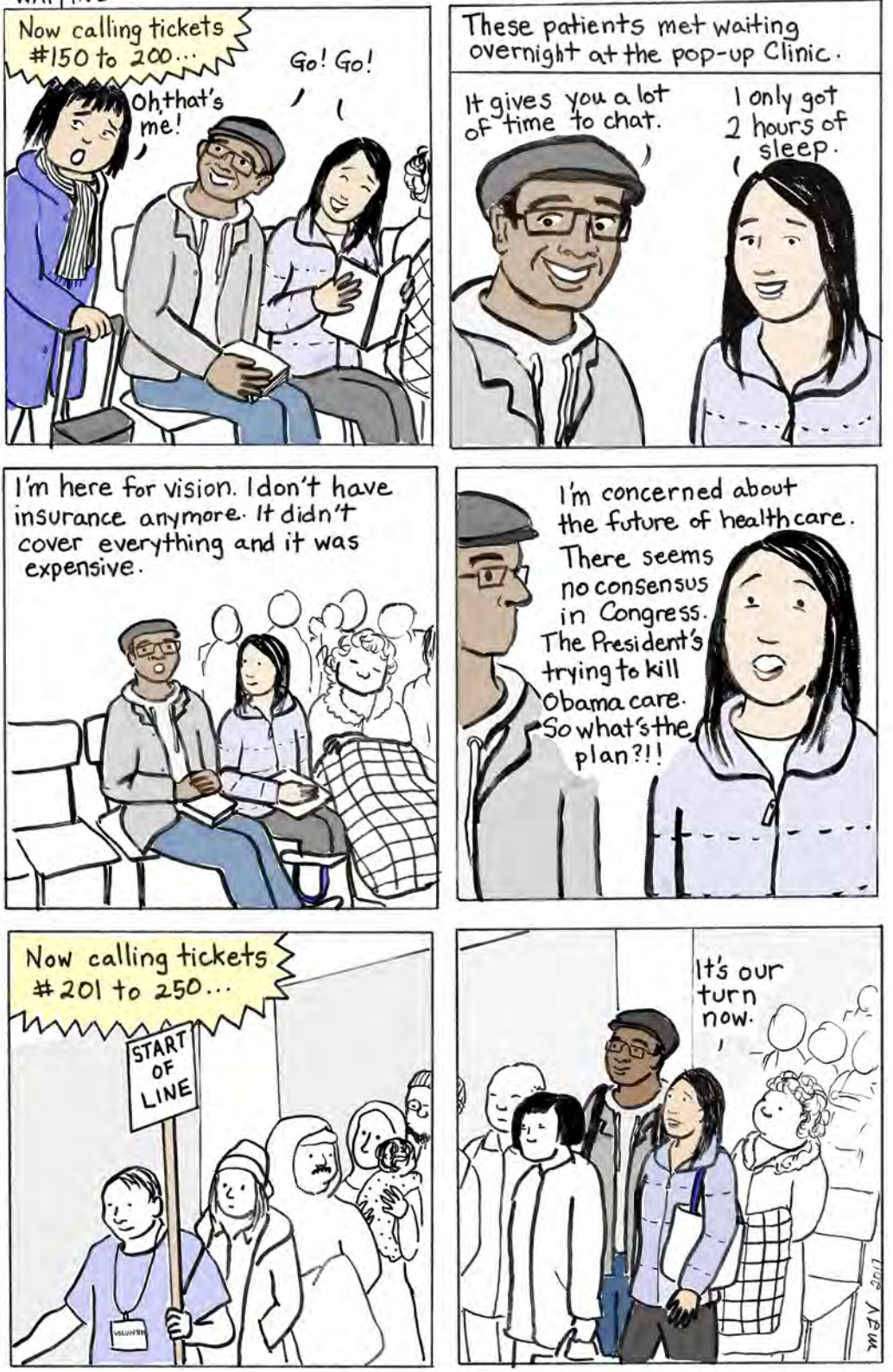
IT'S OUR TURN NOW

An Introduction to the Patient Experience

Irina by Amy Camber, 2018

Deisy and Siblings by Robyn Jordan, 2017 14

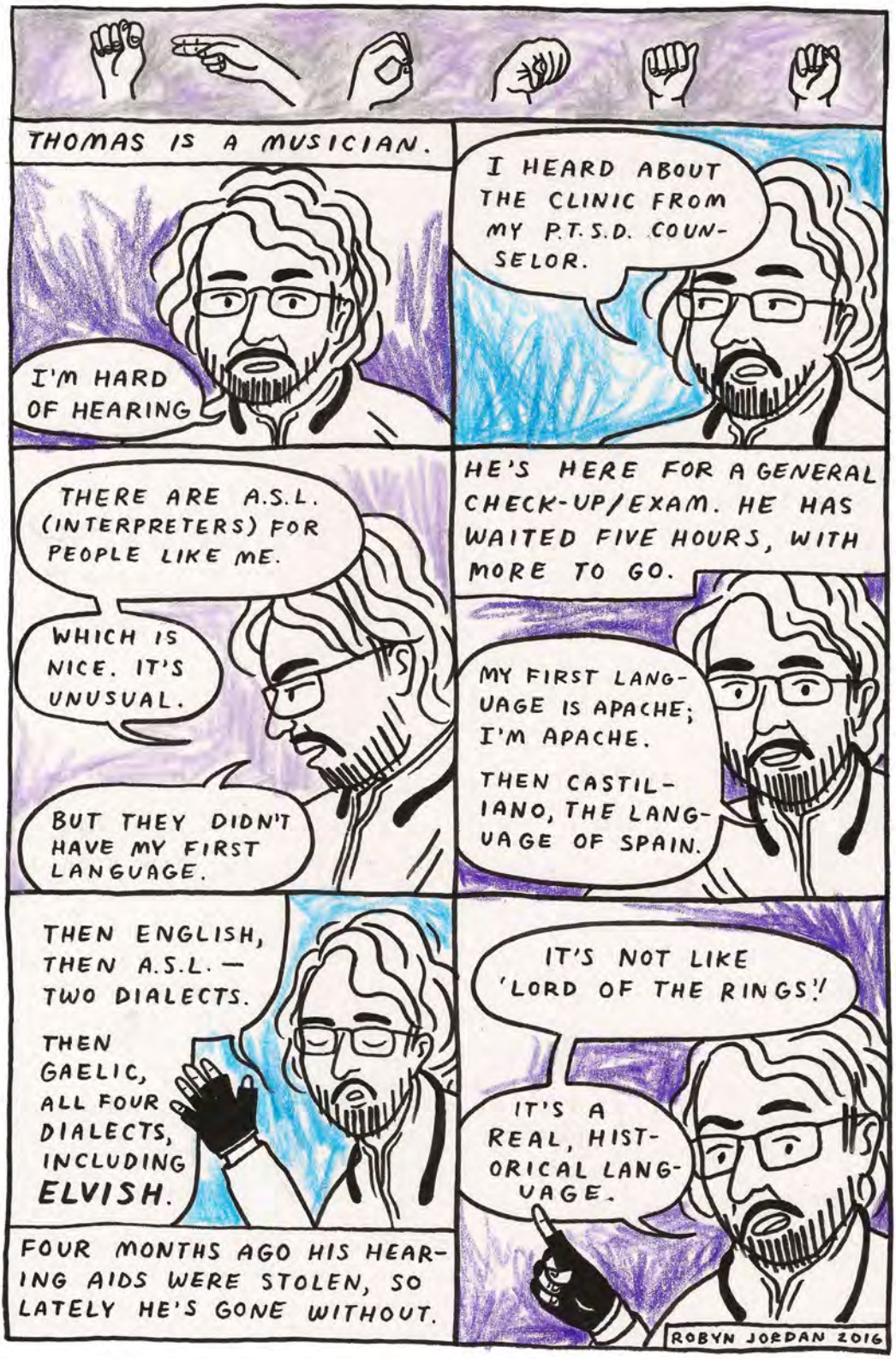
WAITING



Waiting by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2017

LINE BUDDIES

Line Buddies by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2017



Thomas by Robyn Jordan, 2016

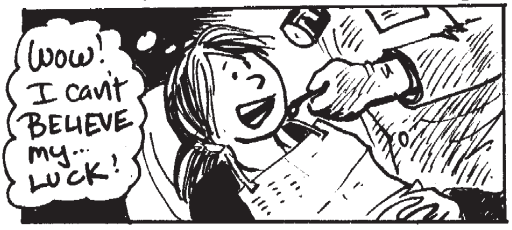
THE FREE CLINIC

© 2016 Roberta Gregory

Once a year, Seattle has a big medical/dental/vision free clinic in a stadium. This year, comics artists were invited to tell patients' stories.

So, I was late getting there. Jen Graves from The Stranger* arrived and, since everyone else had already done interviews, she accompanied me (and I got a lot of mention in her article.)

I got up at 2:30 AM and went through the system. I thought it would be some awful ordeal but it was... GOOD! And, good news: my tooth was NOT decayed!

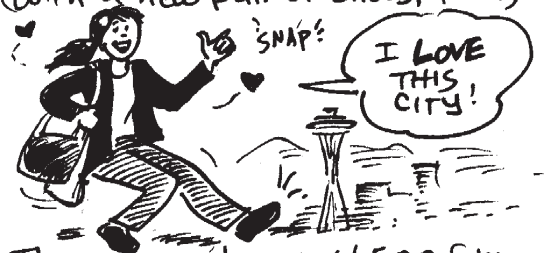


What were the chances my tooth would break THAT DAY?

But, the morning I was to go in, I broke a crown off my tooth! My dentist couldn't see me until Monday. Last time they replaced a crown I had to pay $1400 out of pocket. (The tooth had gotten decayed!)

I was very impressed by all the patients and volunteers. I was kvetching about my tooth, so everyone said I should come in as a patient the next day.

After three dental consultations and X-rays, my crown was glued back on and I was out by 11 AM! (With a new pair of shoes, too!)



This year, almost 4,500 folks got helped - including a few of my comic-artist colleagues! ♡

LORENA

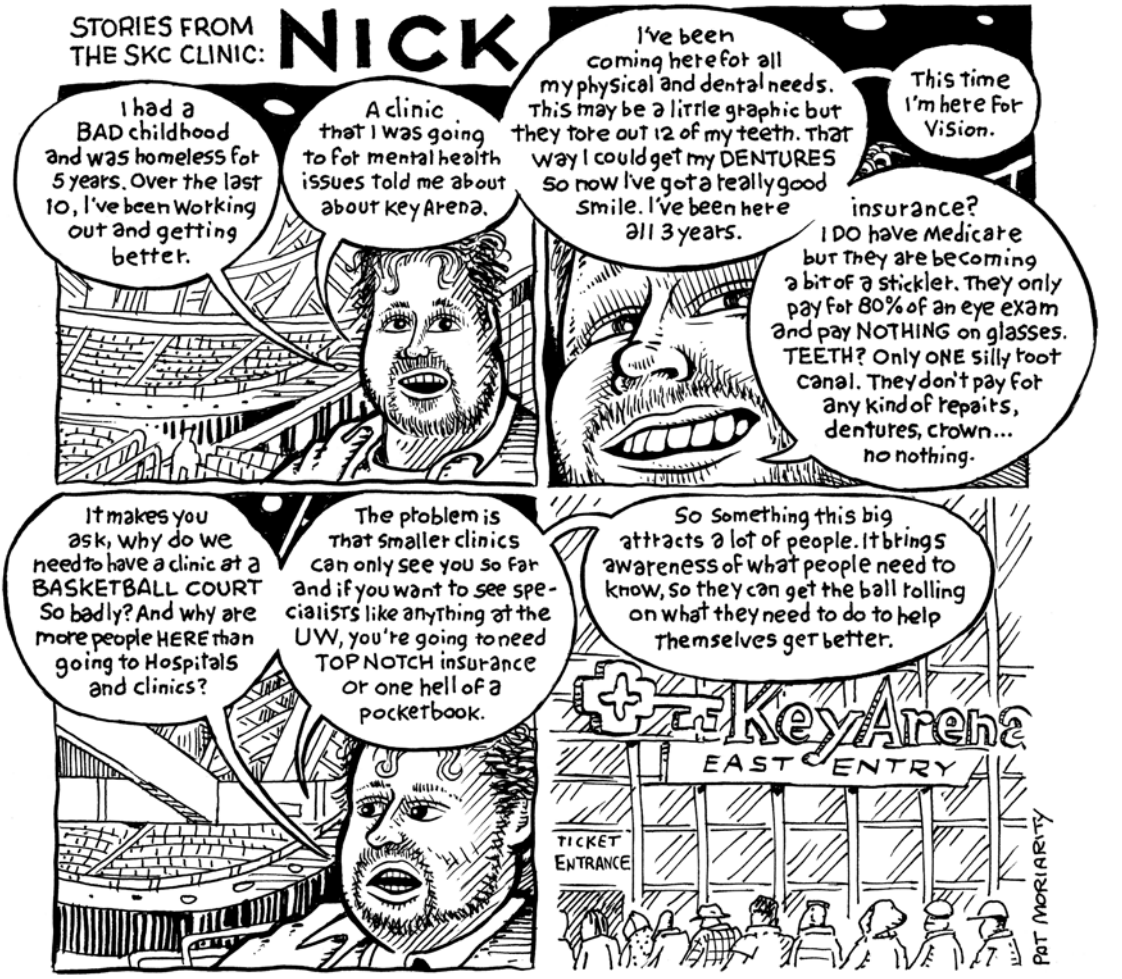
A.CAMBER 2018

I WISH WE COULD BUILD UP A SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Everyday Gaps in the Healthcare System

Calvin

Calvin is missing several of his teeth.
Three years ago, my teeth started breaking apart.
He doesn't feel comfortable looking for a job...
He's had numerous health issues, and nearly died.
I'm hoping for a cleaning and dentures, or maybe a partial.
I'm living on Social Security right now. But Medicare doesn't cover dental — or mental.
Both would help me to have a life again.
D.L.



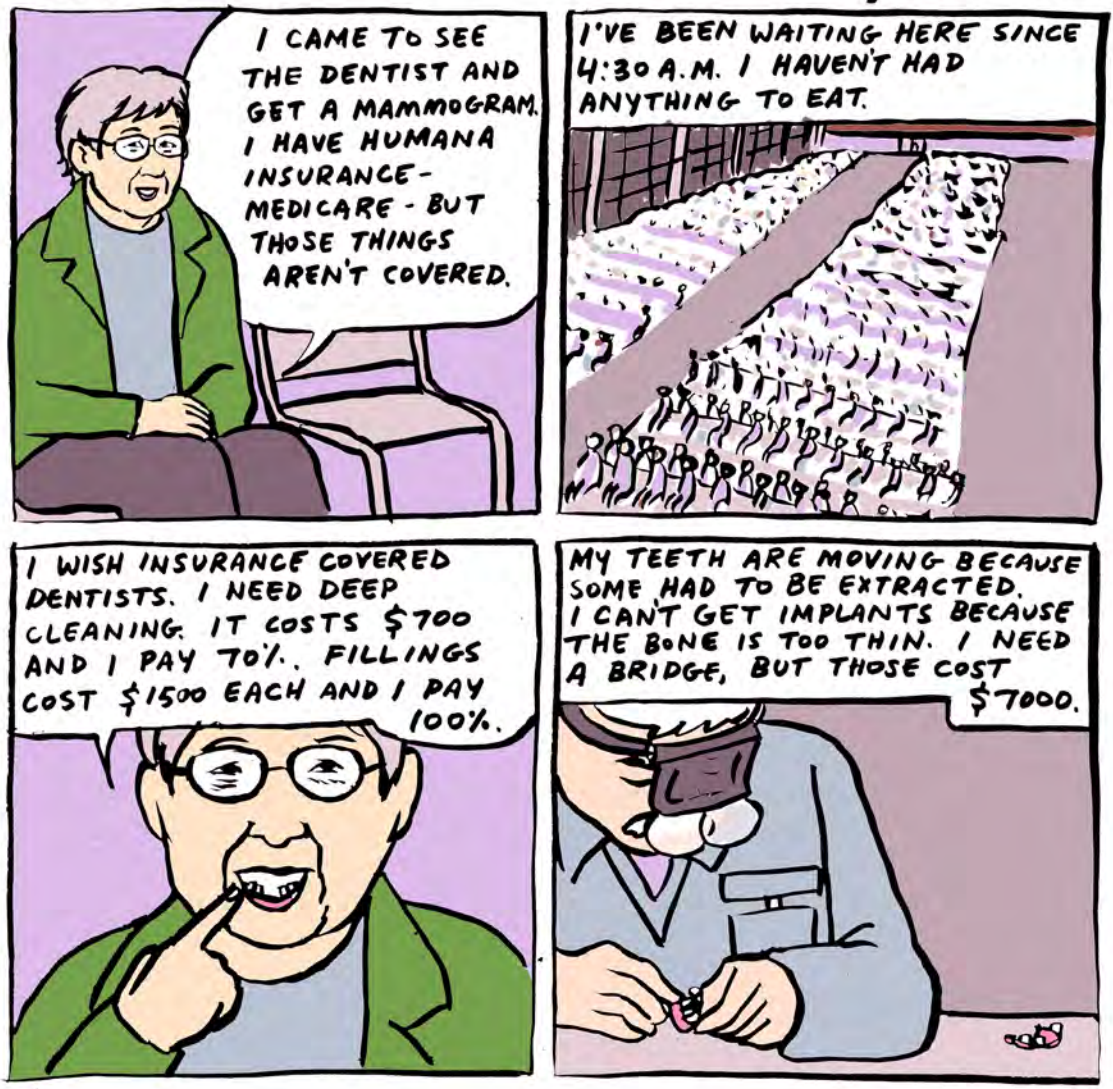
Nick by Pat Moriarity, 2016

The Lottery by Kelly Froh, 2016

BY TATIANA GILL

Emiko

by Tatiana Gill



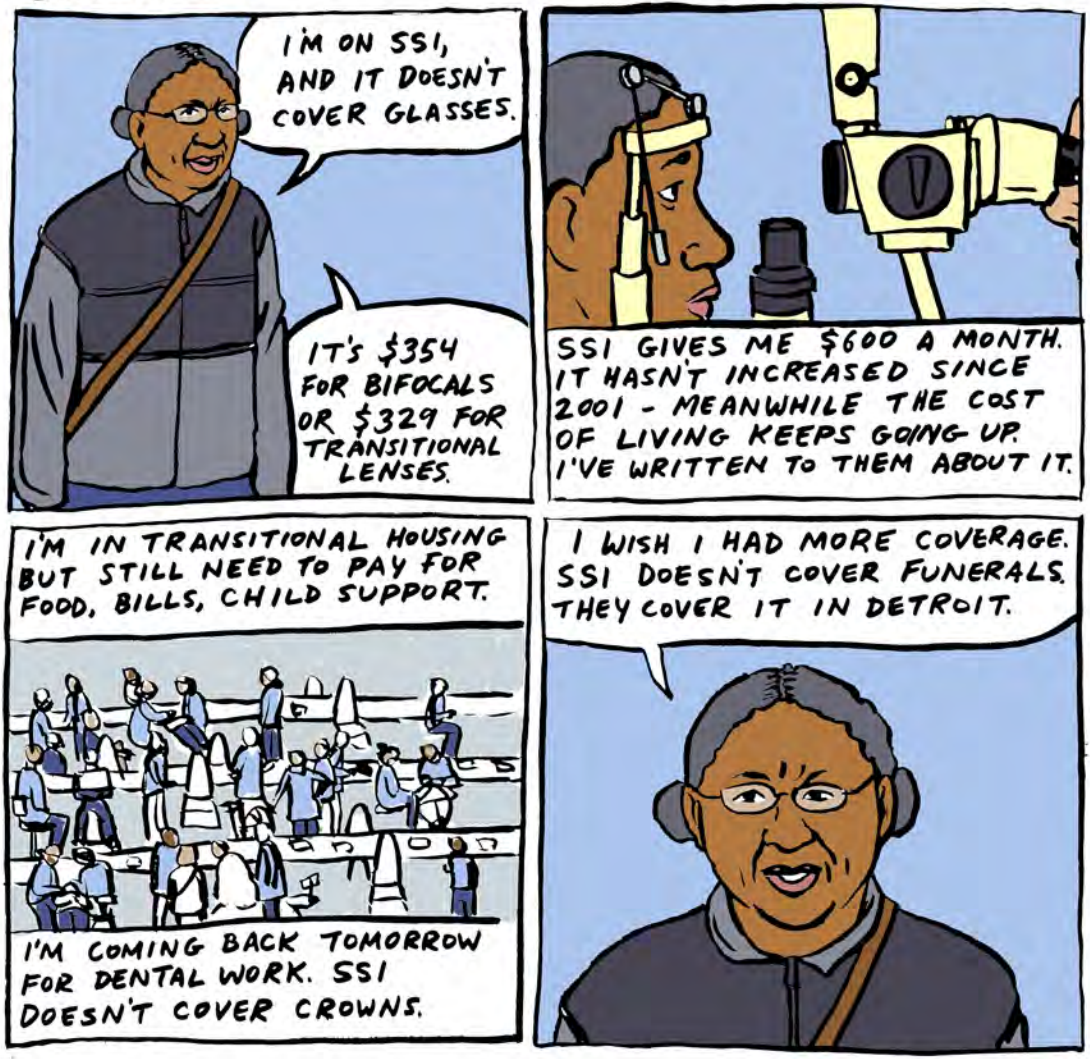
Emiko by Tatiana Gill, 2017

John

by Tatiana Gill

Sharnell

by Tatiana Gill



Sharnell by Tatiana Gill, 2017

DRAKE

BY TATIANA GILL

Drake by Tatiana Gill, 2018

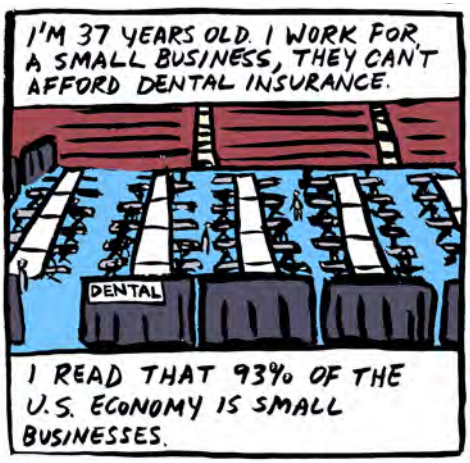
Peggy & Brian by Tatiana Gill, 2018

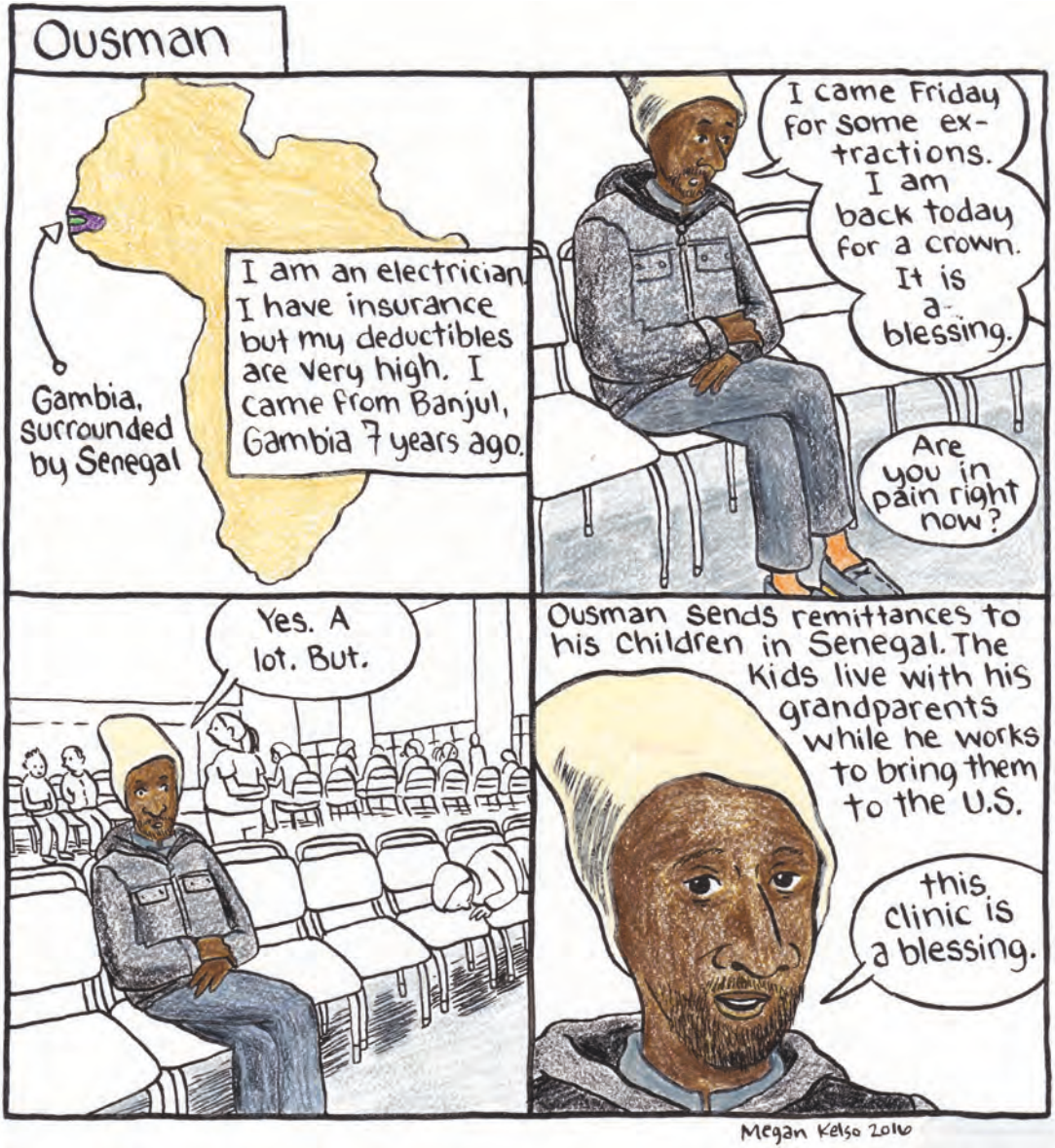
READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP

Ready for My Close-Up by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2017

HAVING INSURANCE IS EXPENSIVE. NOT HAVING INSURANCE IS EXPENSIVE.

Working People's Struggles with Healthcare




Ousman
Gambia, surrounded by Senegal
I am an electrician. I have insurance but my deductibles are very high. I came from Banjul, Gambia 7 years ago.
I came Friday for some extractions. I am back today for a crown. It is a blessing.
Are you in pain right now?
Yes. A lot. But.
Ousman sends remittances to his children in Senegal. The kids live with his grandparents while he works to bring them to the U.S.
this clinic is a blessing.
Megan Kelso 2016

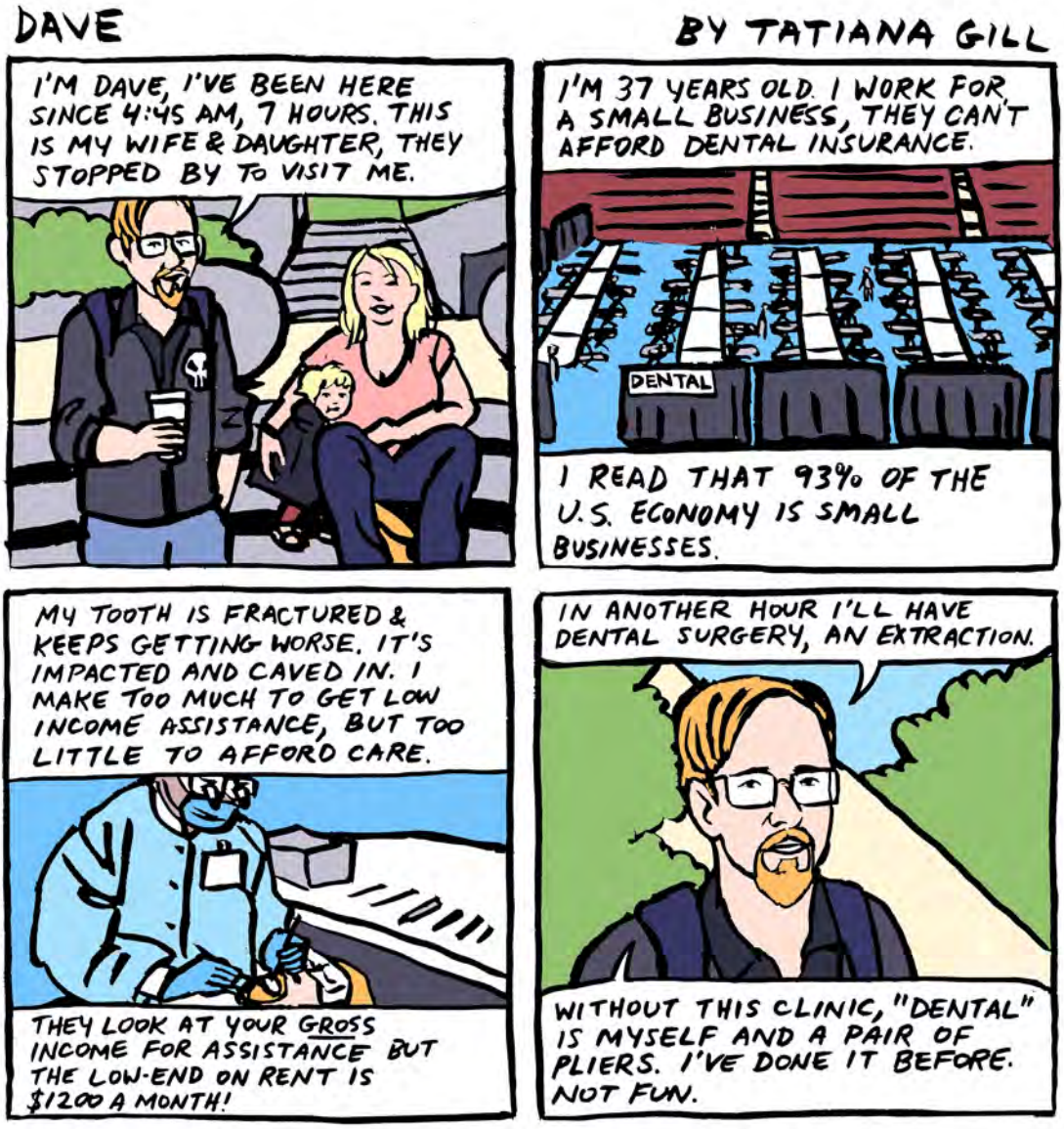
Phyllis by Megan Kelso, 2016

TAYLOR AND JOSH

GOOD TO GO

BY TATIANA GILL

Good to Go by Tatiana Gill, 2016



Dave by Tatiana Gill, 2018

Pressure

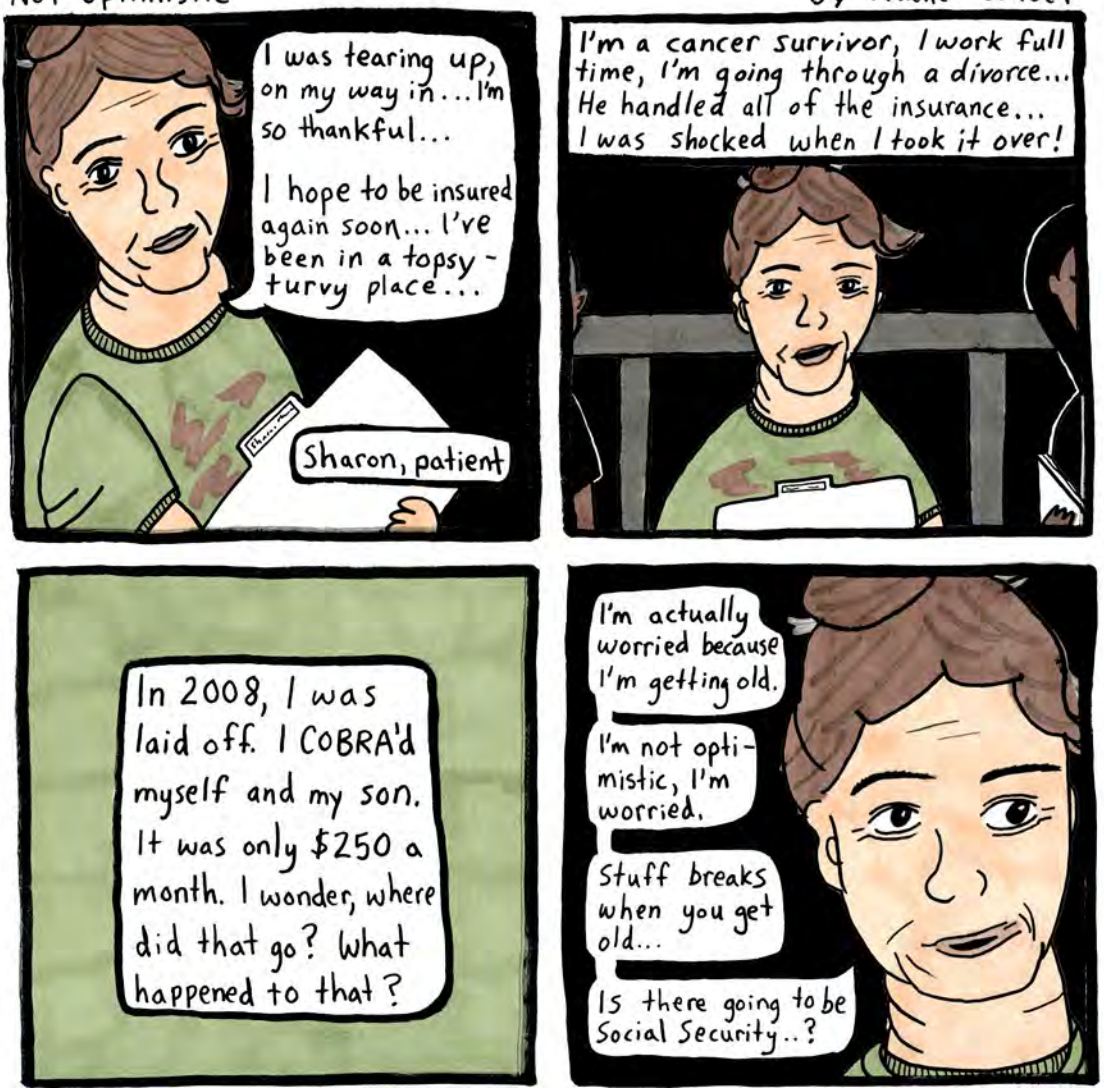
by Meredith Li-Vollmer

Pressure by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2018

Meredith Li-Vollmer

Not Optimistic

by Rachel Scheer



Rick

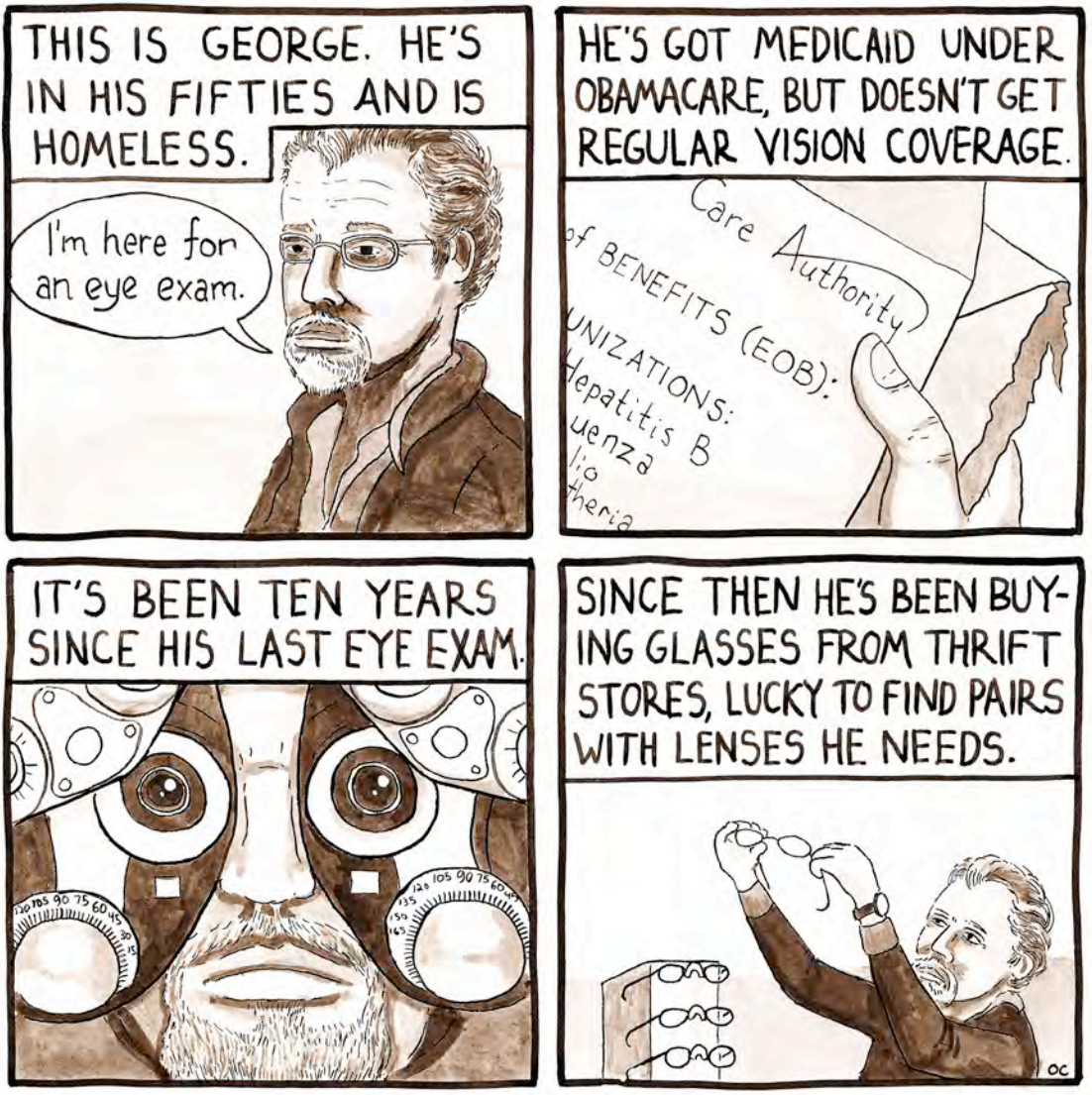
interview by David Lasky

Rick by David Lasky, 2017

SHOULDN'T OUR EYES AND TEETH BE INCLUDED?

Insurance without Dental and Vision

SCI-FI
Kelly Froh
Daniel was waiting patiently for part two of a dental procedure –
STAR WARS
His tooth ached and his gums were so tender he could no longer chew. He didn't have dental insurance.
The free clinic pulled the problem tooth and were making him a replacement with a 3D printer.
Did you ever imagine having access to this kind of technology?
It's really cool.



George by Owen Curtsinger, 2016

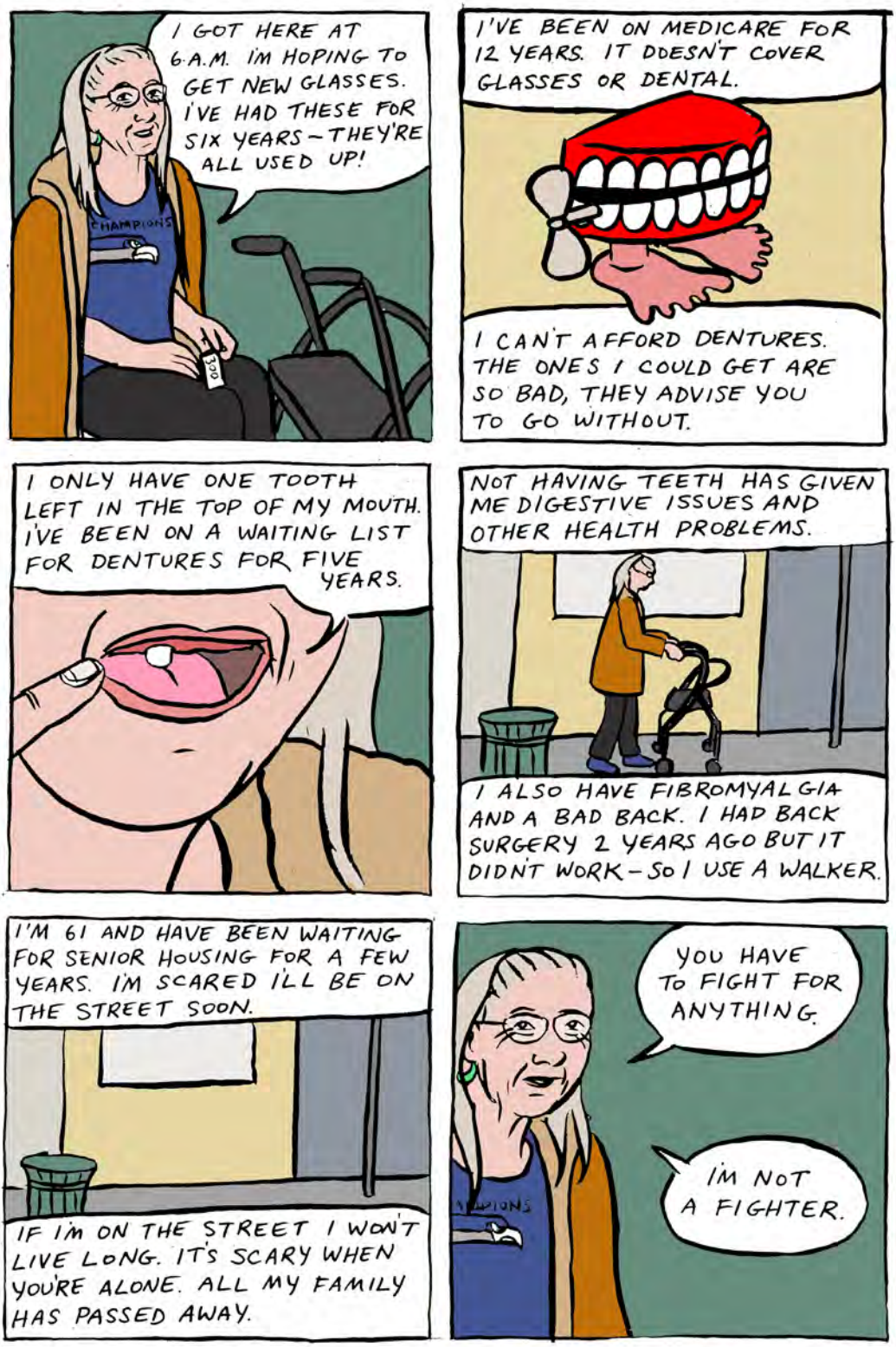
Graham

David Lasky

Graham by David Lasky, 2016

ONE TOOTH LEFT

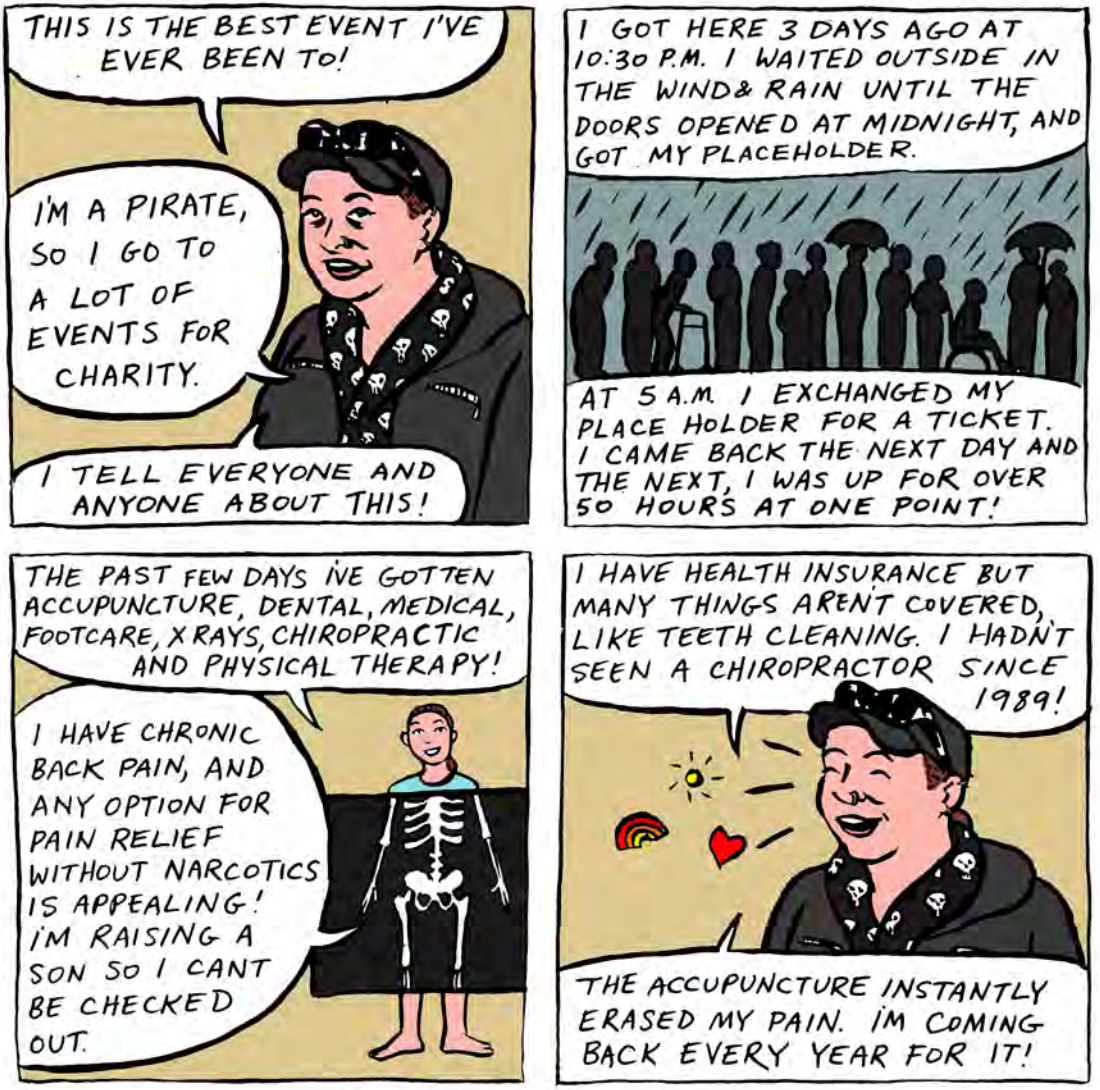
BY TATIANA GILL



One Tooth Left by Tatiana Gill, 2016

PIRATE TREASURE

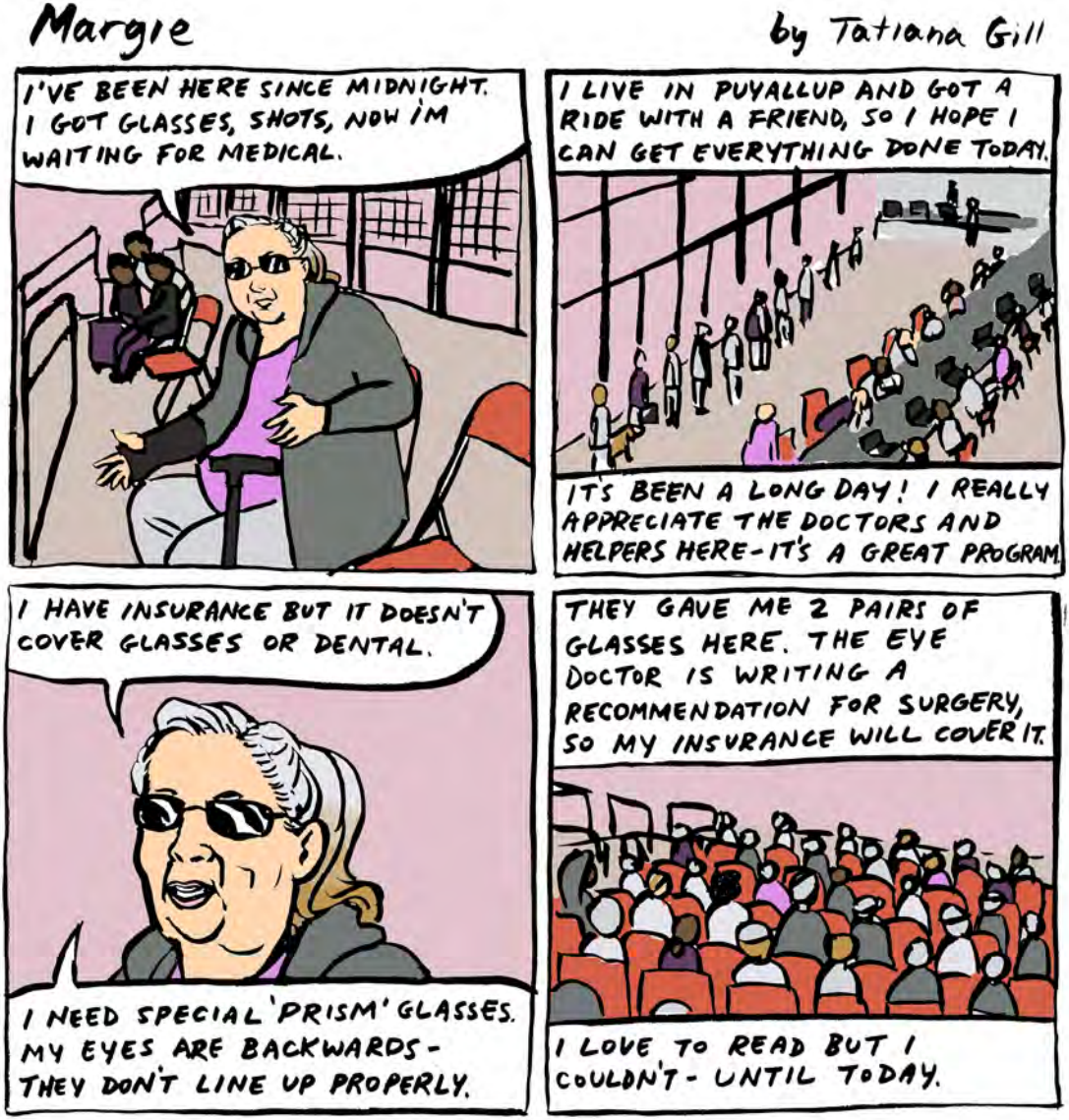
BY TATIANA GILL



TOOTHLESS IN SEATTLE

BY TATIANA GILL

Toothless in Seattle by Tatiana Gill, 2016



Margie by Tatiana Gill, 2017

Nathan

by Tatiana Gill

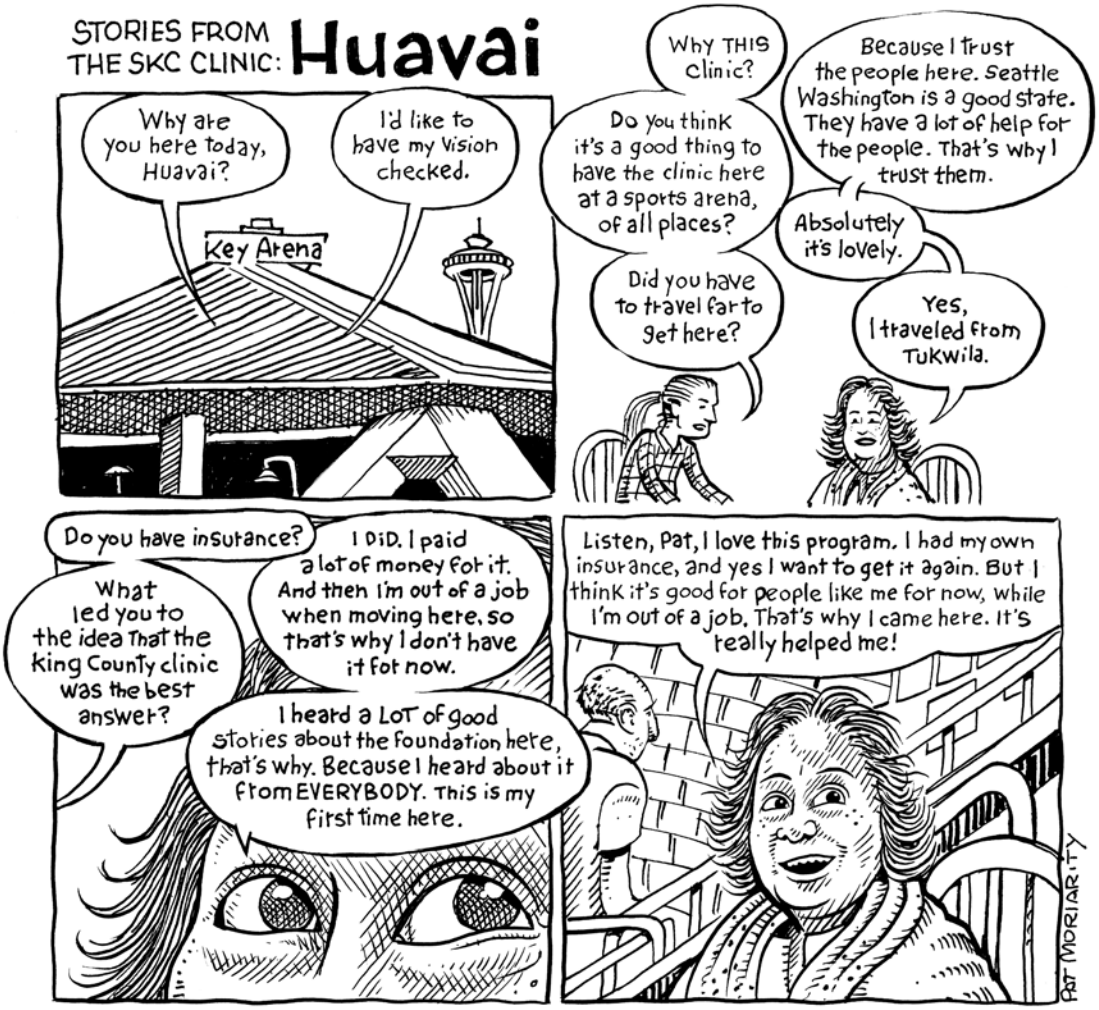
Nathan by Tatiana Gill, 2017

BEN

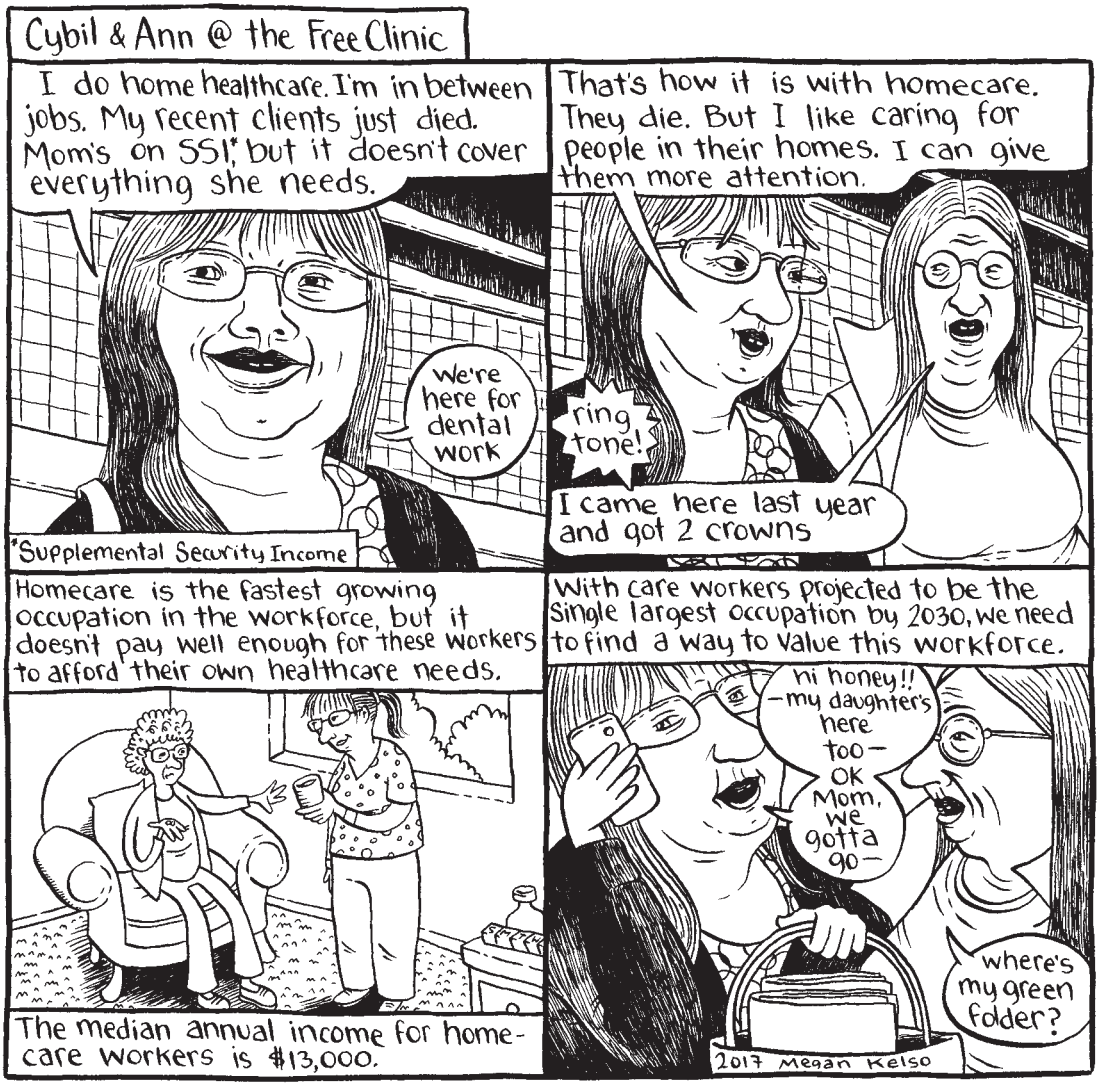
BY TATIANA GILL

I THINK I'LL GO WORK FOR STARBUCKS

Out of Work, Out of Insurance



Huavai by Pat Moriarity, 2016



Cybil & Ann @ the Free Clinic by Megan Kelso, 2017

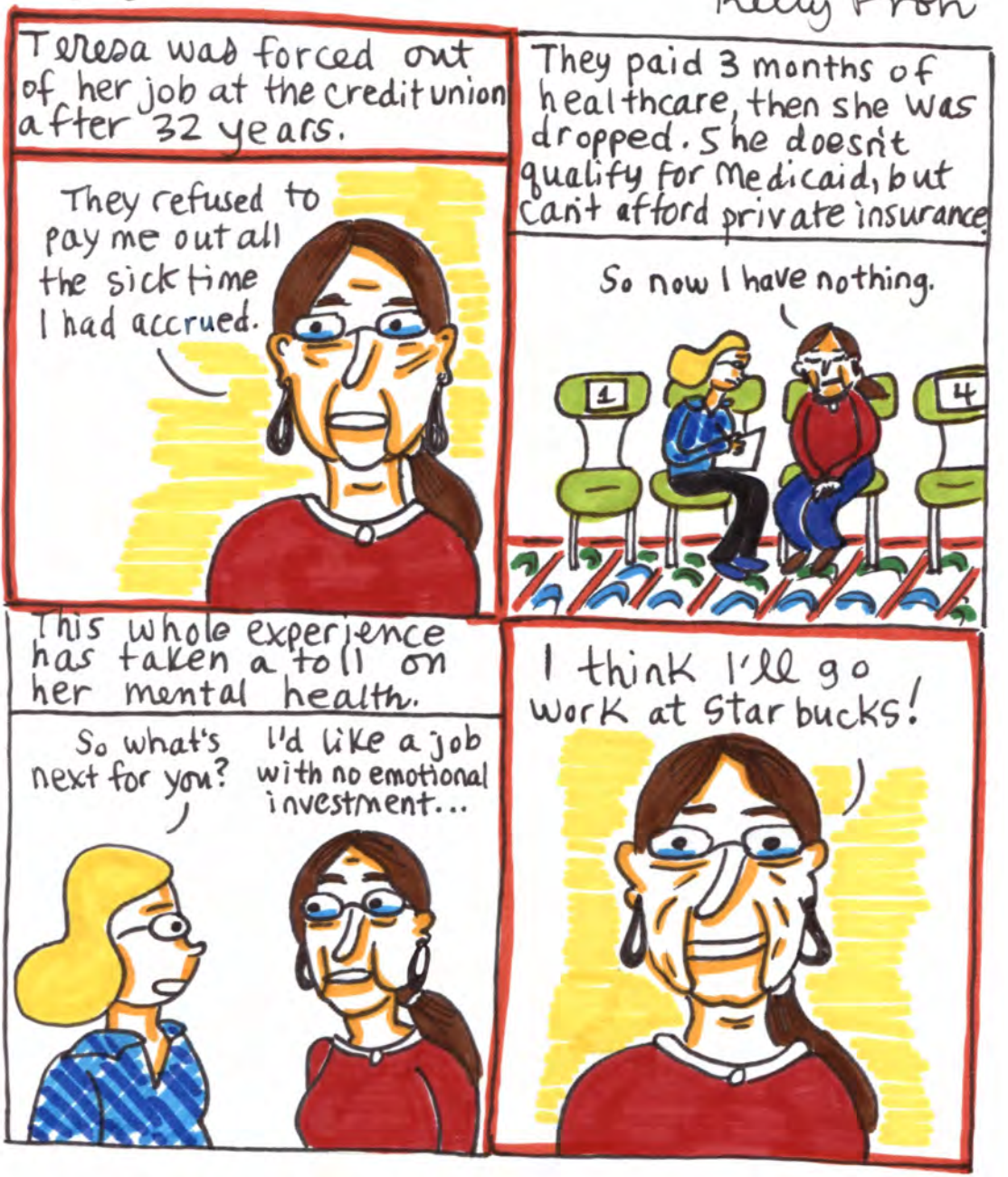
KARL

I found out about the Clinic when I saw people lined up at Seattle Center.
What's this for?
It's free healthcare.
SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC
TICKET DISTRIBUTION FISHER PAVILION
I've come every day because I need a LOT of services. I've had no benefits since I got a serious brain injury. My health has deteriorated ever since. It started with a work-related injury.
Metro Bakery
While I was waiting for my company to approve worker's comp, my knee blew out.
After, I had no idea who I was. I have trouble reading and remembering things.
I lost my high-paying job and my insurance. My former company fought my claim. They said I got my brain injury playing football for Tampa Bay. I never played pro-football!
I ended up homeless.
Sniff
I got lost getting here the second day. I can't do numbers, so buses are confusing. I know the one bus I take all the time, but I can't transfer.
41
SECURITY
One of the Seattle Center security guards recognized me and helped me find my way. So I'm giving back where I can.
See you tomorrow, Andrew!
Thanks for the cookie, man.
Seattle Center
SECURITY

Fred (or When Plan B is the ER) by Amy Camber, 2018

Aging Out

Kelly Froh



MANY CLOSED DOORS

Stories from Immigrant Patients

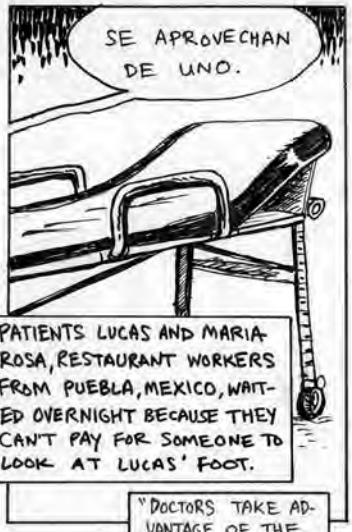
Rosa's Family by ET Russian, 2016

Timing

by Kelly Froh

Timing by Kelly Froh, 2016

FOR THIS YEAR'S CLINIC COVERAGE, I CHOSE TO FOCUS ON THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE. IN 2016 (THE LATEST DATA SHOW) OVER 35% OF SKCC PATIENTS REPORTED SPEAKING SOMETHING OTHER THAN ENGLISH AS A FIRST LANGUAGE. FOR THEM, THE CLINIC HAS ON-SITE INTERPRETERS AND INDEMAND, A SORT OF SKYPE WITH MEDICALLY-CERTIFIED INTERPRETATION.



"DOCTORS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE UNDOCUMENTED," MARIA ROSA SAYS. "BUT AT THIS CLINIC THEY RESPECT YOU."

RUSLAN, AN ETHNIC RUSSIAN FROM KISHINAU, MOLDOVA, ALSO AP PRECIATES THE SERVICE. A FURNITURE DEALER, HE CAME WITH FRIENDS FOR DENTAL WORK. "BUT THEY'VE ALL LEFT!" HE SAYS, WITH A MISCHIEVOUS SMILE.

"SOMETIMES I ONLY HAVE MY KID TO INTERPRET. IT'S SO, SO FRUSTRATING," SHE FUMES.
ACCESS TO DOCTORS IS ALWAYS A STRUGGLE FOR DEAF PEOPLE. "THEY EITHER DON'T HAVE ASL INTERPRETERS, OR THEIR TRANSLATION OVER A SCREEN FREEZES UP BECAUSE OF NETWORK TROUBLE," SHE SAYS. "ONCE I WAS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM WITH NO INTERPRETER! I WAS TERRIFIED."
KY, A VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER, TELLS ME MOST OF THESE PATIENTS COME IN WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS, FEVER, AND NO INSURANCE. "BUT SKCC CAN REALLY HELP CONNECT IMMIGRANTS TO SERVICES THEY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT," HE SAYS.
I'M REMINDED OF THAT WHEN I SEE AN ELDERLY LADY FROM NEW DELHI, IN A WHEELCHAIR, HAVING CHEST PAINS. EMTS ARE CHECKING HER; THEY'VE BROUGHT A GURNEY. BITTU, HER SON, DRIVES AN UBER. HE TELLS ME THEIR HEALTHCARE PLAN: "TRY NOT TO GET SICK."
Aisles 1-74 101-774
THE LADY LOOKS VERY SCARED. I HOLD HER HAND. IT FEELS CLAMMY.
I ASK BITTU TO PLEASE TRANSLATE:
EVERYBODY HERE WANTS TO HELP YOU.

Ali by Roberta Gregory, 2017

FATMA AND FAMILY

 Fatma and Family by Amy Camber, 2017

Angelica by Amy Camber, 2018

Meredith Li-Vollmer

Dental Start by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2016

MIXED BLESSING

Mixed Blessing by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2017

Time for Myself

by Rachel Scheer

Time for Myself by Rachel Scheer, 2018

FELIPE

BY TATIANA GILL

Felipe by Tatiana Gill, 2018

WHY DO PEOPLE GOTTA SUFFER LIKE THIS?

Stories from Patients Living Unhoused or Homeless

Imagine by Kelly Froh, 2017

Limited Time by Tatiana Gill, 2016

Gabriel

by Tatiana Gill

Ashley, 25 years old

interview by David Lasky

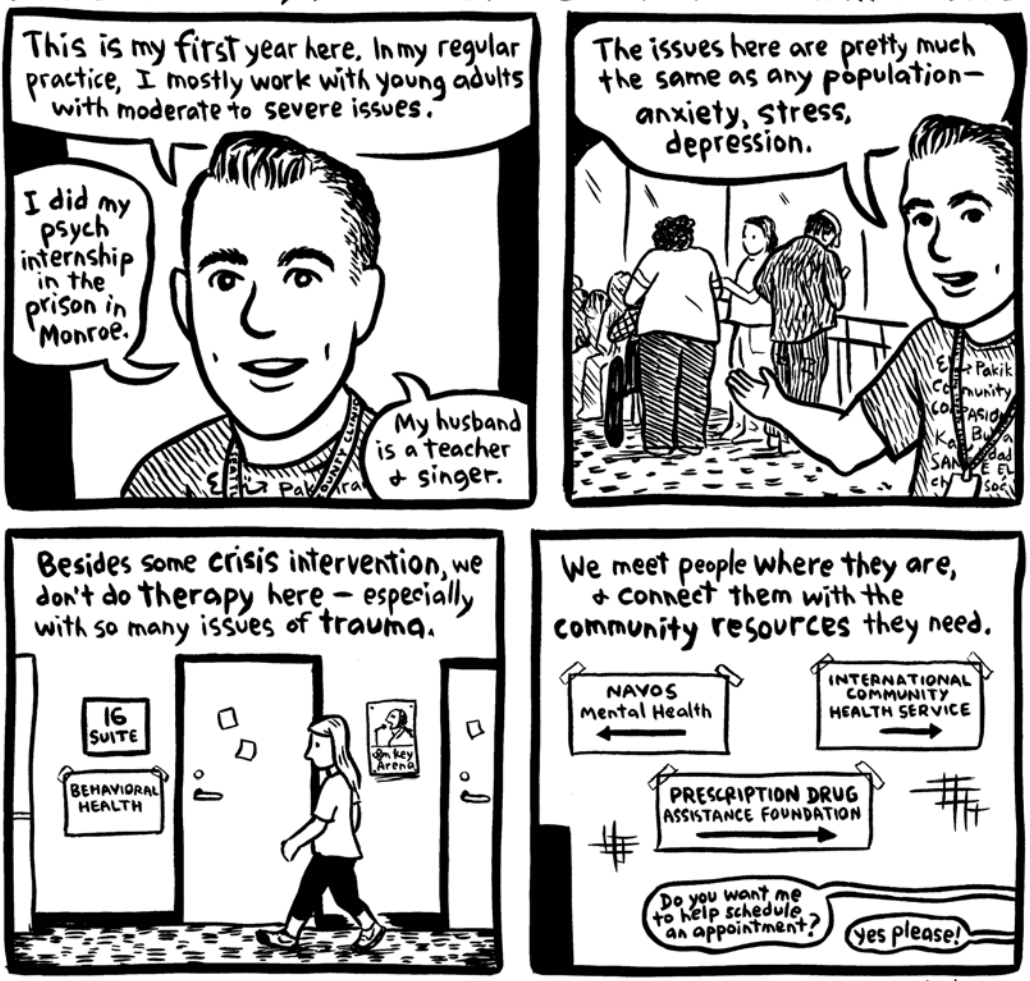
Ashley by David Lasky, 2017

MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Social Support Services at the Clinic

Stereotypes by Kelly Froh, 2017

MIKE ARCHER, PSY D SKCC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CO-LEAD



IF YOU COULD CHANGE 3 THINGS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH CARE... what would they be?

Mike Archer by Ellen Forney, 2018

IT'S VERY PERSONAL

Volunteer Stories

Volunteer

(Apologies to folks whose language I mangled!)

MICHAEL

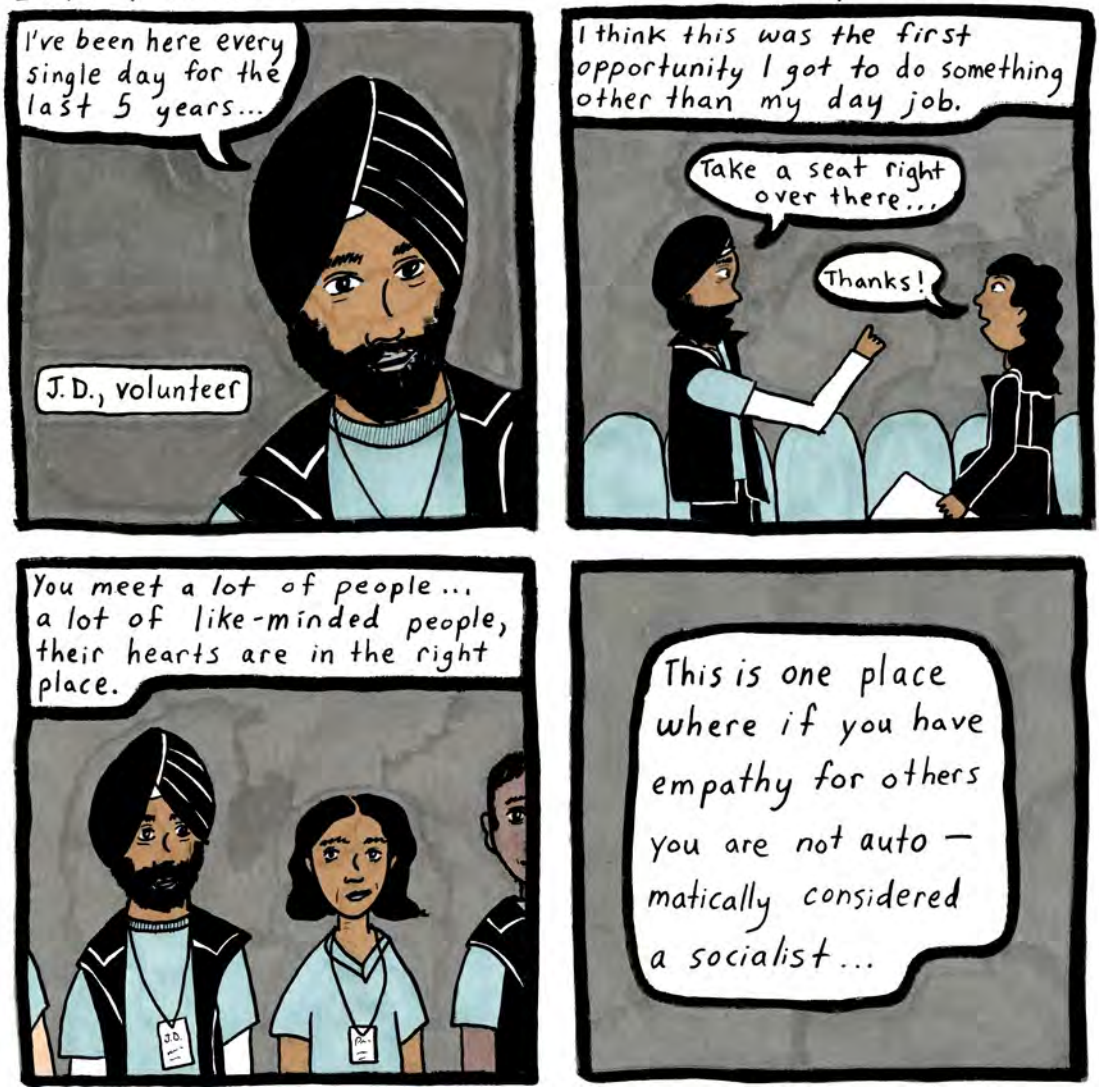
Michael by Amy Camber, 2017

Catherine by Amy Camber, 2018

LOLINDA
LOLINDA
LANA
LOLINDA AND LANA ARE DENTAL INSTRUCTORS. TODAY, THEY'VE BROUGHT NINETEEN STUDENTS TO VOLUNTEER AS DENTAL ASSISTANTS.
It's difficult and fun. There's a lot of teamwork!
STUDENT
LOLINDA DESCRIBED HELPING REPLACE A ROTTEN TOOTH WITH A COMPOSITE.
"The woman was so thankful, she burst into tears. She'd been in so much pain."
HER FAVORITE PROCEDURE IS FIXING FRONT TEETH.
"It changes everything."
"What was previously hidden can shine."
A. CAMBER 2018

Empathy Allowed

by Rachel Scheer



Empathy Allowed by Rachel Scheer, 2018

Health Fair

by Meredith Li-Vollmer

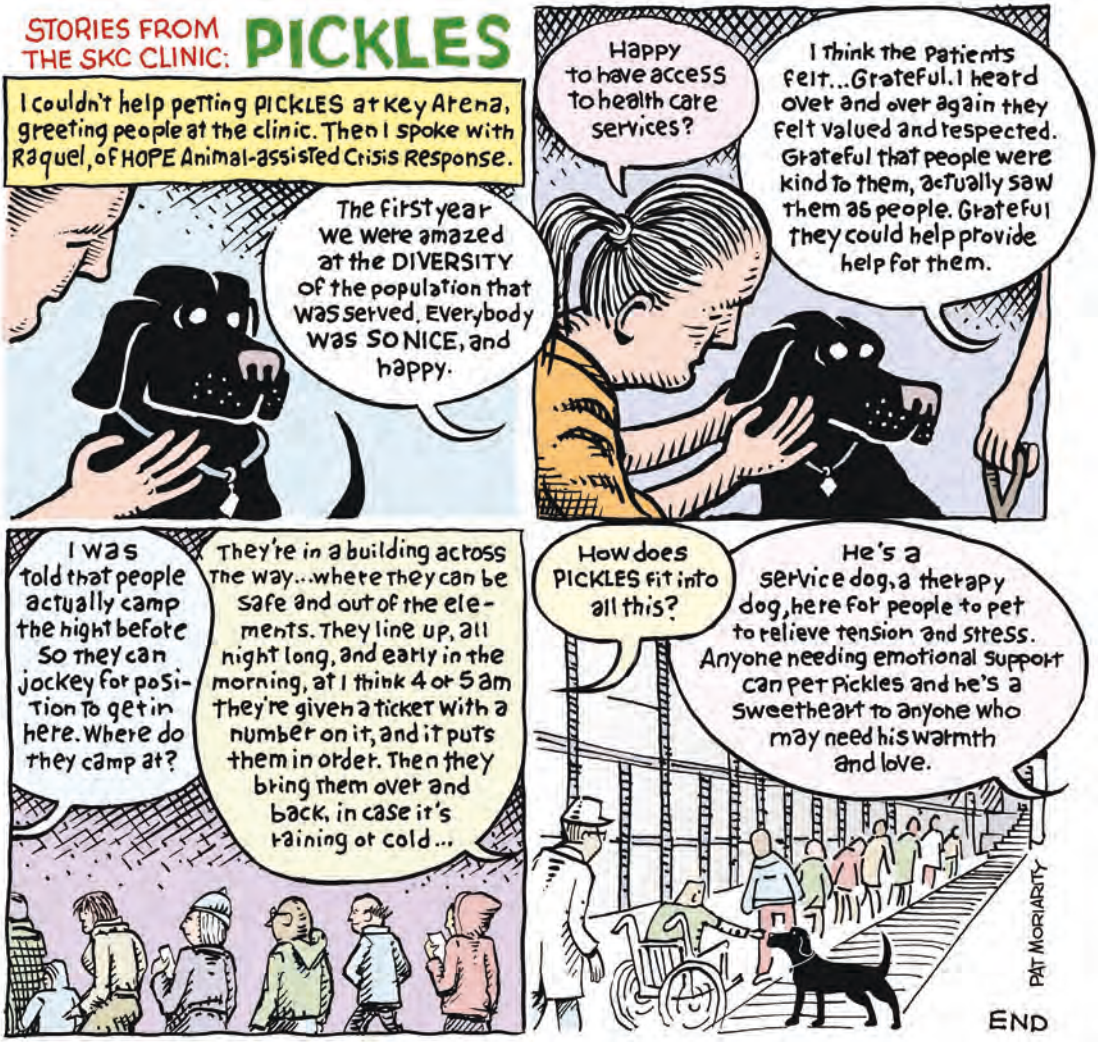
Health Fair by Meredith Li-Vollmer, 2018

Too Good

by Meredith Li-Vollmer

THESE POOCHES ARE PROFESSIONALS!

Comfort Dogs at the Clinic



Pickles by Pat Moriariy, 2016

Paging Lady Rose

by Rachel Scheer

Nancy & Baner by Tatiana Gill, 2018

Puppy Love ♡

Comfort Dogs and their Humans put in many hours at the free Clinic...

I volunteered all four days!

"You can't walk five feet without somebody reaching out to pat one of the pups..." "DOG" is a universal Language!"

These pooches are professionals! Trained, certified therapy dogs who go through a three-hour intensive screening, testing with high-stress situations...

... making sure their personality is appropriate for crisis work.

She also works at a home for mentally disabled adults three to five days a week.

They walk the hallways... or the Team Leader is texted if a Comfort Dog is requested.

one of the volunteers held her for fifteen minutes.

But, humans aren't the only ones who need some T.L.C.

A massage therapist volunteer was working him over and he did NOT want to leave!

Mmm... sigh

©2018 Roberta Gregory

THIS IS THE REAL AMERICA

Outcomes from Five Years

Seattle/King County Clinic

Vision by Roberta Gregory, 2016

FOR JANET

Janet was an intermittent employee at the Seattle Center.
Julia Colson, Director of the SKC Clinic
The first year of the Seattle/King County Clinic, she heard about it because she worked at Seattle Center, but it didn't occur to her to go as a patient.
Patients and volunteers can park for free in the designated lots. Thank you for helping direct them.
Janet happened to work the first day of the Clinic.
How was it?
Amazing! I got such great care and everyone was so kind.
PARKING FREE for Seattle King County Clinic
As an intermittent employee, she didn't have health insurance through Seattle Center. She had insurance through her husband, but it was very basic coverage and still expensive.
I've been putting off that big-ticket dental work for years.
The next day...
I'm here for dental.
Janet got a root canal and crowns at no cost.
Thank you so much! That saved me thousands of dollars that I don't have!

Patient Exit
You look about the age of someone who might need a mammogram.
We have openings now in mammography. Would you like to get one?
My mouth is so numb! Maybe I'll just go home. But I haven't been able to afford a mammogram.— Maybe I should do it.
Janet got the mammogram.
The mammogram found something irregular. Let's get you scheduled for a follow-up at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.
They found she had stage 3 breast cancer. About the same time, her husband lost his job and they lost their insurance. Seattle Cancer Care Alliance helped her get on Medicaid so that she could get treatment.
This is somebody that I know. This is somebody that I worked with. She and her husband both worked and had insurance. And they just couldn't afford everything that they needed.
That's what's sad about our healthcare system right now.
She was in treatment and continued to work for Seattle Center. She came back every year to volunteer at the Clinic.

Continued....

As told to Meredith Li-Vollmer and David Lasky

For Janet by Meredith Li-Vollmer & David Lasky, 2018

MOLLY BY TATIANA GILL

Molly by Tatiana Gill, 2018

Catching Up

by Meredith Li-Vollmer

ROSA

Rosa by Amy Camber, 2017

FAITH HAMMEL, RN

SKCC PATIENT INTAKE (& more)

I've been a nurse for 35 years. This is my 5th year at the clinic.

I like working with a team--

--we have easy access to all kinds of providers.

SOCIAL WORKERS
VISION
ULTRASOUND
CHIROPRACTIC
ACUPUNCTURE
MAMMOGRAM
X-RAY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
HEP TEST
KeyArena
DERMATOLOGY
HIV TEST
PHARMACY
WOMEN'S HEALTH
DENTAL
FOOT/ WOUND CARE
MED LAB
SNACKS
HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE
PHYSICALS
IMMUNIZATIONS
EKG
& more

Pakikiramay Community Clinic

IF YOU COULD CHANGE 3 THINGS ABOUT HEALTH CARE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

1. SINGLE PAYER

Get insurance companies OUT of the health care system.

I've had cancer twice & even I had roadblocks for my health care!

2. Provide TRAUMA-INFORMED HEALTH CARE* TRAINING to every provider, & include the front office staff.

*RECOGNIZE WIDESPREAD TRAUMA, EMPHASIZE SAFETY, EMPOWERMENT, & COLLABORATION.

3. Use a HOLISTIC APPROACH, spend TIME for EDUCATION, provide WELLNESS CARE, have COORDINATION OF SERVICES...

That's more than three!

We tie people into COMMUNITY RESOURCES. There's only so much we can do here.

OPIOID EDUCATION

If you use Narcan to save someone, you're covered by the Good Samaritan law.

NARCAN

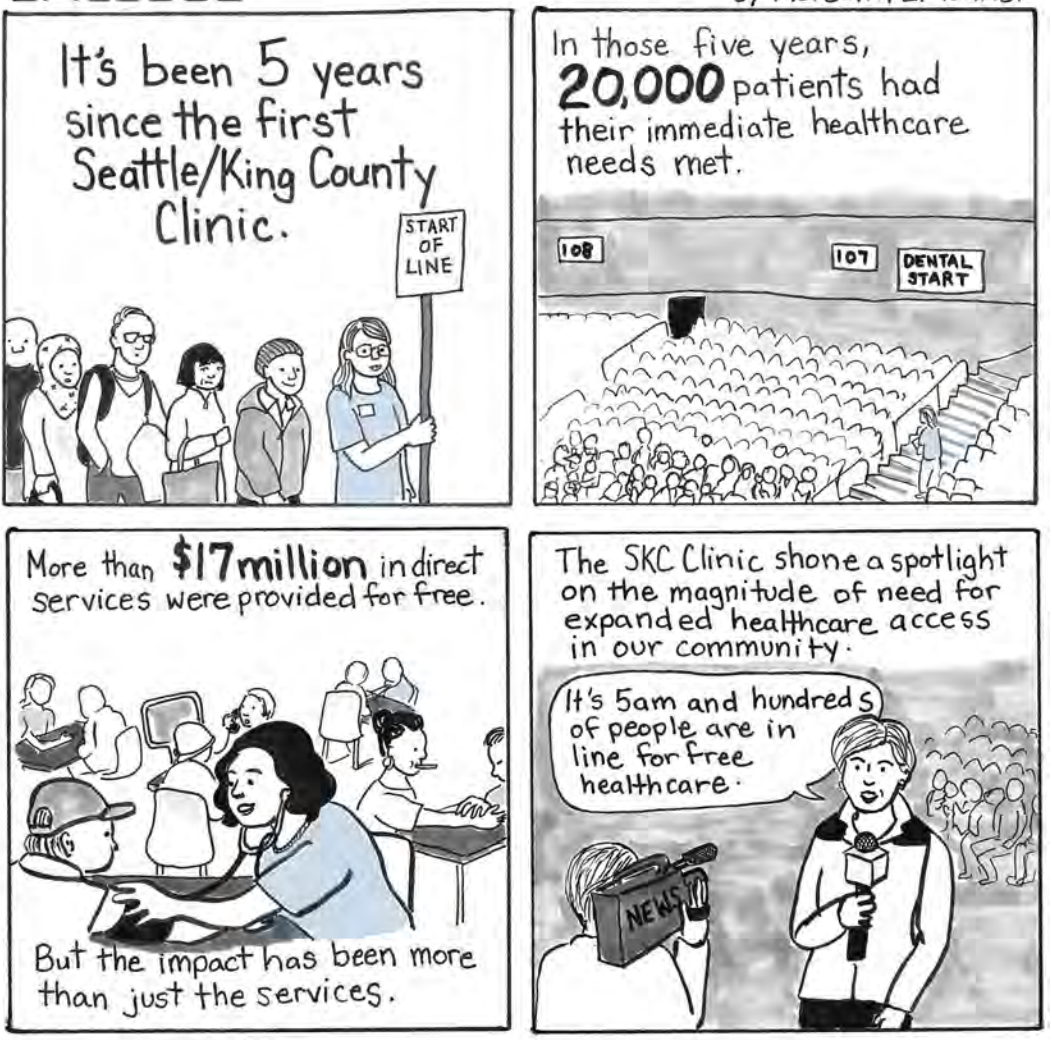
Seeing them today is great, but who's going to see them tomorrow?

ellen forney

Faith Hammel by Ellen Forney, 2018

EPILOGUE

by Meredith Li-Vollmer



Continued....

It made visible the lack of options for people without insurance or financial means.
It's near impossible to find affordable glasses. If I can't see, I can't work.

It challenged stereotypes about who is in need.
What do you do?
I drive a school bus.

There were almost as many volunteers as patients.
So much of my job is paperwork. This experience reminds me why I chose to be a nurse.
6
Yeah, it makes me think about how we can be more compassionate with patients where I work.
It left an impression on them, too.

The SKC Clinic facilitated collaboration between healthcare organizations, professional associations and public agencies that often work in silos.
What can we do to help patients find a dental home?

But this pop-up event was never envisioned as a long-term solution to healthcare.
KeyArena
SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC
4 DAYS
FREE MEDICAL
DENTAL, VISION
CARE

Free clinics are not enough.
We need to move the needle in more systemic ways.
Julia Colson
Clinic Director
Christine Lindquist
Executive Director
WA Healthcare
Access Alliance

We need expanded Medicaid for anyone who is income eligible, regardless of immigration status.
We need to improve our public mental health funding.
Download FREE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT APP
We need increased reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers so that more providers serve this population.
Volunteer
We need to get rid of bureaucratic hoops that make it harder to get care.
Meanwhile, it's 2019 and the future of the Seattle/King County Clinic is a little up in the air.
KeyArena
NOTICE
CONSTRUCTION SITE
When the Clinic started, the Affordable Care Act was in it's infancy. There was so much hope.
That feels like such a different time.
SKC CLINIC 2014 FINAL REPORT
The Seattle Times
TRUMP ISSUES RULE THAT WEAKENS ACA

Continued....

Concerns about the affordability of our region are as acute as ever.
There's still a lot of heavy lifting that needs to happen.
END OF LINE
It can feel overwhelming.
With the doors of the SKC Clinic now closed-or at least on a hiatus...
Volunteer
...how can we harness the momentum and compassion generated to make lasting change?
Because the goal is not to keep doing the Clinic forever.
Come on in. You're next.
MGV 1/21/2019
What if we no longer need charity care because everyone is able to get the care they need?

THE ARTISTS

José Alaniz is an associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Comparative Literature (adjunct) at the University of Washington - Seattle, chairs the Executive Committee of the International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF), the leading comics studies conference in the United States. His comics have appeared in the *Moscow Tribune*, *Seattle Weekly* and *Dune*.

Amy Camber is an artist and teacher. She writes about everything from feminism and parenting to periodontal disease and professional sports. Her comics have appeared in *The Huffington Post, Mutha Magazine, The Establishment, The Seattle Weekly, Bust*, and *Grab Back Comics* among others. amycambercomics.com

Owen Curtsinger is a comic artist and illustrator. His work focuses mostly on science and research-based topics, such as narwhal evolution, solar magnetism, and other natural wonders. He holds a certificate in Natural Science Illustration and a BA in Creative Writing, both from the University of Washington.

Ellen Forney is the author of bestselling graphic memoir *Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me*, and its self-care companion book R*ock Steady: Brilliant Advice From My Bipolar Life*. Ellen curated the traveling exhibition, *Graphic Medicine: Ill-Conceived & Well-Drawn!* for the National Library of Medicine, and teaches comics at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. ellenforney.com

Eroyn Franklin is a comics artist, illustrator, arts educator, and Creative Director of Short Run Comix and Arts Festival. She has written 2 graphic novels, the Xeric-winning *Another Glorious Day at the Nothing Factory*, and *Detained*, which is part of a permanent Wing Luke Museum exhibit at Inscape in Seattle. eroynfranklin.com

Kelly Froh is a comic artist, art instructor, and co-founder and Executive Director of Short Run Comix & Arts Festival in Seattle. Her work can be found at cargocollective.com/kefroh and previously in *The Seattle Weekly, The Seattle Review of Books, Moss, The Women's Review of Books* and *Popula.*

Tatiana Gill is a Seattle-based cartoonist who uses her art to show strength and vulnerability, often on themes of mental health and diversity. Gill has created dozens of self-published comic books and contributes to publications across the world. tatianagill.com

Roberta Gregory has been creating (and publishing) her unique comics since the 1970s. She is best known for her character "Bitchy Bitch". robertagregory.com

Robyn Jordan is a cartoonist, illustrator and teacher. Her non-fiction memoir and journalism comics have been featured in various publications, including *The Stranger, Seattle Weekly, Narratively, Vox*, and *The Huffington Post*. She is a member of THE HAND, an art collective that creates collaborative comics. robynjordan.com

Megan Kelso, a Seattle native, has published comics since the 1990s, starting with the *Girlhero* mini comic, later compiled into a book titled *Queen of the Black Black*. Kelso received two Ignatz awards for her graphic novel Artichoke Tales. In 2007, she was invited by *The New York Times Magazine* to serialize her *Watergate Sue* comic as part of a weekly *Funny Pages* feature. Kelso is currently at work on her third collection of short stories.

David Lasky coauthored the graphic novel *The Carter Family: Don't Forget This Song,* which won the comics industry's Eisner Award, and is currently drawing a graphic novel which will focus on Seattle's historic Georgetown Steam Plant. Among his best known work is the comic book, *No Ordinary Flu*, made in collaboration with Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Meredith Li-Vollmer communicates about health issues for Public Health – Seattle & King County. Her experience staffing the Seattle/King County Clinic inspired her to organize this project. Her comics projects have been published in *MUTHA, The Stranger, PEN America* and *The American Journal of Public Health*. She is currently working on a book about comics for health communication.

Pat Moriarity, a former art director at *Fantagraphics Books*, is an award winning designer, illustrator, animator and cartoonist. His work has appeared in many publications including *Zero Zero, Big Mouth, Real Stuff, Nickelodeon* and *Mineshaft Magazine.* He teaches storyboarding at Seattle Art Institute and also at Seattle Film Institute.

E.T. Russian is a multi-sensory artist, author, filmmaker and healthcare provider from Seattle. Russian is the author of *The Ring of Fire Anthology* and has published work in *The Stranger, The Seattle Weekly, Gay Genius* and *The Collective Tarot.* Russian is a member of cartooning collective THE HAND, an Advisory Board Member for Seattle's Short Run Comix & Arts Festival, a featured artist with Sins Invalid and dance company Light Motion, and Co-Director of the movie *Third Antenna.* etrussian.com

Rachel Scheer is a comic artist living in Seattle, Washington. Rachel's mostly autobiographical comics have been published by *The Stranger, The Seattle Weekly, Narratively, Lilith Magazine,* and *Fantagraphics*. When she isn't making comics, Rachel works as a second grade teacher. rachelcomics.com